

The Brethren Evangelist,

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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ASHLAND, OHIO, JANUARY 24, 1894.

A SUNDAY IN CHICAGO.

Chicago is little less to the religious world than it is to the commercial. Boston went to Chicago for a Baptist divine to take her richest and most influential pastorate. This of itself shows the rank of the wild and wicked city.

We have long had a desire to hear the famous orator of the Congregational church—Frank Gunsaulus, president of the Armour institute. His church has the reputation of being one of the most aristocratic in the city. We went alone and early. The church building is a very large structure but on any extra occasion it will not hold the people who come to hear this noted \$10,000 a year preacher.

We arrived in time for Sunday school. It had a very home-like appearance. There would unconsciously arise in our mind, when we thought of going here, "Oh, well, in that proud, rich church they won't care for nor want me." We have heard so much said against "the popular churches of the day," that nothing but the grace of God will ever remove our prejudice.

Once inside the Sunday school room we were received with all the courtesies we could expect anywhere. We accepted the invitation to sit in the Bible class.

While the members of this class were clad in silks and satins and bore the evidence of wealth and luxury, there was also in the number, a colored lady who received as much consideration and respect as any one else. It might try the humility of some of us "humble people," to act as brotherly toward this unfortunate people.

At the close of Sabbath school the superintendent made a strong appeal to the school to bring in more members. He said he was ashamed to know that other schools were doing more to bring people to Christ than theirs. And then he urged every boy and girl to take with them a card, on which to place the names of those they might succeed in winning to the school. From this it was easy to observe that they wanted to increase

the attendance of their school, as much as we do any of ours, in fact we never heard a stronger appeal made anywhere than was made here. This shows conclusively that the "popular churches" are greatly belied. I fear that many of us, if weighed in the balance with them, would be found wanting in this respect.

There was also announced that Sister Quay, who is the visiting member of the church, had found a family of father, mother and three children, without food; all sleeping in one bed, the father sick with typhoid fever. With the funds of the school relief was given them. It was further stated that if any one knew of others sick, without care and support, they should report to Miss Quay, and she would look after their wants. Weighed in this balance, brothers and sisters, would you pass the crucial test?

We next found ourselves in the large audience room, listening to the flowery speaker. His subject was, "The death and sufferings of Christ," based upon the text "I have trodden the wine-press alone." If I would have had my choice of subjects upon which to hear him, I could not have selected a better one. For beautiful figures of speech, fine rhetoric, naturalness of delivery, Frank Gunsaulus is without doubt the peer of any living orator. Those who lay special stress on these elements in sermons, are always filled with enthusiasm from hearing this man. We are more for facts than figures, for strength than beauty, for that which sustains than that which merely pleases. Therefore we went away from this church not feeling so well fed as we had expected.

In his announcements, among other things, he spoke of a church sociable to be held on the following Tuesday evening. To this he most earnestly invited not only all the members of that congregation, but all who attended services there though only casually, that he might make their acquaintance and that they might get acquainted with each other. For, said he, "to know a christian is to love him. In such a large church it is impossible to meet you all personally, except in some such way as this. This pleasure I hope to have at this meeting." The invitation was given in such a hearty manner, that we had to believe in its sincerity. Again would arise in our minds the surprise that these people would want to be sociable or limited in that line.

In the evening we went to hear Dr. Gifford, the successor of Dr. Lorimer. Again we went early, and was in time to attend the Y. P. S. C. E. Although a rich, aristocratic church by reputation, we found the same timidity, hesitancy and general awkwardness incident to beginners anywhere. But that old dread, "they are proud and rich and

don't want me" got a hard blow again. The leader announced a sociable for the Wednesday evening following, and asked that all would pray God to sanctify it to his glory and the salvation of souls; that it should be more than a place for mere physical enjoyment; that it might be the means of giving heart to the lonely and isolated by bringing the membership in closer sympathy with each other.

Then followed the sermon by Dr. Gifford on matrimony using the scripture recording Jacob's marriage as a text basis. He said stock breeders looked up the ancestry of animals before investing in them; but in matrimony with the distinct statement that sins are visited to the third and fourth generation, no account of this most important element is kept. He delivered telling blows against being unequally yoked together with unbelievers. Such a union is the greatest discord men or angels have ever seen. Christ and Belial cannot dwell together in one house.

There is nothing which we should so much regard as true piety and holiness. We have hitherto estimated our progress entirely by the number of baptisms and proselytes. Most members consider their local work a failure except as they receive into fellowship others. This is a most pernicious error which cannot be abandoned too soon. We must remember that Christianity is a growth and education. It is no more reasonable to think that all is done when names are enrolled on the church book than that, when a person has enrolled in college, he is then in possession of all the advantages enjoyed by those who have thoroughly completed the course of such institution. Let us grow in grace and knowledge; this will make us strong in the Lord. God's Kingdom has always been weakened by counting human heads and hands. Cursed is the man that maketh flesh his arm. One true consecrated, pious soul is a greater power for the Bible, God and the salvation of souls than the largest congregation of the Brotherhood that is priding itself in the number of its members and financial strength. Let us never forget that it is quality and not quantity that determines value.

ONE brother sends in \$15.00 for the purpose of having the *Messenger* donated to that many families. This is his way of doing missionary work. In these 15 families are probably 70 persons—quite a fair congregation. To this congregation he proposes to have the Gospel preached during the entire year. That brother is doing a good work. One thousand like him would mean the preaching of the Gospel, rain or shine, every Sunday to over 70,000 persons. Can we not have more of this kind of preaching? *Gospel Messenger*.